

During this year, Congress has taken up a robust agenda to address the critical needs of our nation. We have passed important legislation that helped restore our economy, create good paying jobs, and increase the overall access to quality affordable health care and education.

I am proud of the funding I have secured for the First Congressional District, particularly for the Northwest Corner. These needed funds will help solve the problems that are inhibiting the overall economic, social, and health growth of the region and the state. This year alone, from Barkhamsted to Torrington, over \$29 million dollars in federal funding will be directly invested in the region.

I can't think of a better example of how federal funding has already benefited the region than the funding received by the Community Health & Wellness Center of Greater Torrington earlier this year

In April, the Center was awarded \$1.3 Million dollars in Recovery Act funding to become a Federally Qualified Health Center allowing it to expand access to primary and preventative health care services in Litchfield County. As a result of the funding the Center was able to triple the number of patients it is able to serve.

Watch the video below of Kathy Grimaud, Executive Director of the Center, as she explains how the funding has improved access to health care. The video was taken at the recent public forum on health care I held in Winsted.

Kathy is truly committed to improving the quality of life of all residents in the area, and this funding will help her accomplish that mission. This funding will pay dividends for years to come by investing in important health care services for the residents of the region.

In 2010, I look forward to building on these accomplishments. I will be holding more public

forums to listen to your concerns and supporting the programs and initiatives that are essential to serving the needs of the region.

As always, please feel free to contact my office or send me an email if I can be of any assistance. Thank you and I wish you and your family a happy holidays and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Examples of Funding Secured by Congressman Larson for the Northwest Region in 2009

Town of New Hartford-\$7,600,000

The funding, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that will upgrade and expand the town's wastewater treatment facility

City of Torrington-\$750,000

The funding will support the Main Street Realignment Project and reconstruct new roadways and intersections in the downtown area. Currently the intersection has a near failing grade of "D" for vehicular traffic disruptions and overall risk to public safety. This effort will make the downtown business and entertainment district safer for residents and visitors.

Town of Barkhamsted-\$500,000

To repair the Mountain Road and Old Riverton Inn culverts to prevent flooding in the Riverton section.

Northwestern Connecticut Community College (Winsted) -\$350,000

To create a new nursing program that will reshape the economic and health care landscape in Winsted and the region. Connecticut will have the second worst nursing shortage in the nation, with the largest shortage occurring in Litchfield County where there is currently no degree or diploma nursing program.

Torrington Police Department -\$850,000

The funding for the Torrington Police Department will upgrade the emergency response communication systems improving response time, and more importantly, ensure the overall safety of the city's residents.

Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Department of Barkhamsted-\$168,625

Winsted Volunteer Fire Department-\$35,910

The funding provided by the Assistance to Fire Fighters grant program will enhance the public safety in the towns by providing funding for training and updated equipment for the fire departments and first responders.

